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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

1382

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A-471 — CONFIDENTIAL — R

NO. — HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE RECEIVED

INFO : CINCPAC FOR POLAD, DANANG, PARIS (2) FOR VIET-NAM MISSION SEP 24 10 5[illegible]

[illegible] BRANCH

FROM : American Embassy SAIGON DATE: September 20, 1969

SUBJECT : National Assembly By-Elections in Pleiku, September 28.

REF : Embassy A-444 of September 9, 1969

1. The Department will have noted that the reference airgram contained considerable derogatory information about one of the candidates for the by-election in Pleiku province, Captain Ton That Viet Hung.

2. We have made inquiries about the chances of Hung being elected to the National Assembly on September 28, and are satisfied that his chances are minimal. Hung was kicked out of his job as Chairman of the Pleiku RD Standing Committee several months ago by order of the Commanding General of II Corps, General Lu Lan, and thus no longer benefits from that position in conducting his campaign.

3. On the other hand, another candidate, Lieutenant Colonel Nguyen Thanh Van, the current RD Chief of II Corps, is reportedly well liked in the province and is benefiting from some official support, so that he is believed to be in a leading position to win the empty seat.

BERGER

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 1/21/82
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON (S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
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FORM DS-323 4-62

Drafted by: POL:MFHerz/NCLaBrie:ht (9/20/69)

Classification Approved by: M.F. Herz

Clearances:

CONFIDENTIAL

ORIGIN/ACTION
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

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TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE Action assigned to

INFO : BANGKOK, CINCPAC FOR POLAD, DANANG, PARIS FOR VN MISSION (2), VIENTIANE Action Taken

Date of Action 12/16/69

FROM : Amembassy SAIGON DATE: December 1, 1969

SUBJECT : Upper House Passes Election Bill for Provincial and Municipal Councils Office Symbol EA/VN

REF : Saigon 12614 Name of Officer Fitzgerald

1. On November 14, the Upper House completed action on the provincial and municipal council election law, setting elections for April 26, 1970. (The Lower House version of the bill, which passed June 12, 1969 (reftel) had established an election date of September 28, 1969.)

2. The Upper House made other, mostly minor, changes in the Lower House bill. The Lower House version stipulated that for areas already divided into districts, the district would be the electoral unit. Each electoral unit would elect at least one councilman, with the number of the councilmen on each council and the composition of the electoral unit to be fixed by a decree by the Prime Minister in accordance with the population of the respective area, with councils ranging from 6 to 36 members. The Upper House version, however, states less specifically that the areas will be divided into electoral units corresponding to the number of councilmen to be elected. Each electoral unit will elect one councilman, with the number of councilmen on each council and the number of electoral units to be fixed by decree by the Prime Minister, also in accordance with the population of the respective area. Provincial and municipal councils will range from 9 to 30 members in size, and the Saigon council will have 40 members. (The Lower House made no special determination for the size of the Saigon council.)

3. The Lower House version appeared to make mandatory the use of the district as the electoral unit. The Upper House version, however, while not specifically excluding use of the district as the electoral unit, seems to permit flexibility in determining this element while still insuring geographic distribution of councilmen.

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FORM 4-62 DS-323

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Drafted by: POL:TATull:ab 11/28/69

Contents and Classification Approved by: POL:LBAskew

Clearances: POL:MHLevine

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